# Shirley Jones

# TWO MOONS

Ten Years of the Red Hen Press An Exhibition of Limited Edition Artist's Books



National Art Library Victoria & Albert Museum, London 6th October 1993 - 8th January 1994



# CATALOGUE

1983 Scop Hwilum Sang 36 x 30 cms Edition 25

Six colour etchings by Shirley Jones illustrate her translations of Old English poems. Set and printed by her, letterpress, in Baskerville type on Barcham Green handmade paper.

1983 Scop Hwilum Sang 41 x 35 cms Design Binding Bound by Denise Lubett, Fellow of Designer Binders, in terra-cotta Nigerian goat skin stretched over a wooden sculpture. The cloth dropback box is suede lined and the lid cushioned to take the impression of the sculpture.

1984 Impressions 39 x 35 cms Edition 40

Eight aquatints on Barcham Green handmade paper by Shirley Jones accompany eight of her poems and prose pieces about her first visit to the United States. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Baskerville type on Richard de Bas handmade paper.

1985 A Dark Side of the Sun 32 x 31 cms Edition 30 Six mezzotints and six poems by Shirley Jones about people who live in the "shadow of the sun". Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Gill Sans type on Barcham Green handmade paper.

1986 Ellor-gāst 38 x 33 cms Edition 40

Eight aquatints and eight translations by Shirley Jones of Old English poetry explore the theme of the monster in *Beowulf*. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Baskerville type on handmade paper by Jaques Brejoux.

1987 Nocturne for Wales 50 x 42 cms Edition 50

Five aquatints on Barcham Green handmade paper and five short stories by Shirley Jones about her childhood in the Rhondda Valley. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Baskerville type on Rives mouldmade paper.

# CATALOGUE

#### 1988 For Gladstone

33 x 25 cms Edition 50

Ten mezzotints and a mezzotint combined with relief etching by Shirley Jones accompany her text about "a special cat". Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Gill Sans type on Rives mouldmade paper.

# 1989 Soft Ground Hard Ground 31 x 36 cms Edition 40

Twelve colour etchings using soft ground and hard ground techniques accompany twelve poems and prose pieces by Shirley Jones about the experience of being a woman. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Perpetua type on Barcham Green handmade paper.

## 1990 Five Flowers for my Father 46 x 33 cms Edition 40

Five mezzotints of wild flowers juxtaposed with objects significant in the life of her father, and a mezzotint portrait of him, on Tervakoski handmade paper, with associated text by Shirley Jones. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Baskerville type on Roma handmade paper.

#### 1991 Two Moons

### 38 x 36 cms Edition 40

Nine colour mezzotints and poems by Shirley Jones express the duality of our attitudes to mental and social misfits and the very old. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Gill Sans type on Rives mouldmade paper.

# 1992 Ordinary Cats

### 54 x 44 cms Edition 12

Five large mezzotints and a miniature with selected texts and a poem by Shirley Jones. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Baskerville type on Rives mouldmade paper.

# 1993 Llym Awel

# 38 x 29 cms Edition 40

Seven colour mezzotints and a relief etching are the landscape background to Shirley Jones's translations of medieval Welsh poetry. The poems explore the changing nature of heroism and loss, as portrayed by the bards, from the sixth to the thirteenth century. Set and printed, letterpress, by her in Perpetua type on Barcham Green handmade paper.

# **EXHIBITIONS OF BOOKS AND PRINTS**

One-person	
Rye Art Gallery	1979
Fairfield Halls, Croydon	1982
Atelier 2, Viersen, West Germany	1982
Margaret Fisher Gallery, London	1983
Neilson Library, Smith College, Massachusetts	1989
Hargrett Library, University of Georgia	1989
Touring Exhibition, Welsh Arts Council	1989
Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont	1990
Temple University Library, Philadelphia	1990
Brecknock Museum, Powys	1993
National Art Library, Victoria & Albert Museum	1993
Group	
Curwen Gallery, London	1976
Printmakers' Workshop, Edinburgh	1976
Morley Gallery, London	1977
Open and Closed Book Exhibition,	
Victoria & Albert Museum, London	1977
British Artists' Books, Atlantis Gallery, London	1983
British Fine Printing, City of London Festival	1984
International Exhibition of Creative Typography, Lausanne	1990
Oriel, Cardiff	1991
Touring Exhibition The Printmakers' Council	1993

# WORK IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Library of Congress, Washington - complete collection National Art Library, Victoria & Albert Museum, London National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth Humanities Research Centre, University of Texas Guttenberg Museum, Mainz, Germany New York Public Library Newberry Library, Chicago British Library, London University of Illinois, Urbana Rijksmuseum, Museum van het Boek, Netherlands Boston Public Library Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont McFarlin Library, University of Tulsa Temple University, Philadelphia University of California, Santa Barbara The Otto Schafer Library, Schweinfurt, Germany Art and Architecture Library, Yale University Mcabe Library, Swarthmore College, Philadelphia Thomas Fisher Library, University of Toronto London College of Printing Baker Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover Watkinson Library, Trinity College, Hartford Hargrett Library, University of Georgia Rare Book Collection, University of British Columbia Special Collections, University of Arizona Joseph Regenstein Library, University of Chicago Dallas Public Library Chapin Library, Williams College Rare Book Collection, Smith College Margaret Clapp Library, Wellesley College Rare Book Collection, Washington University, St. Louis Manchester Metropolitan University Library Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas Houghton Library, Harvard University Klingspor Museum, Offenbach, Germany John Hay Library, Brown University, Rhode Island

# SHIRLEY JONES: ARTIST, WRITER, PRINTER

Shirley Jones creates and publishes artist books under the name Red Hen Press. Her etchings and mezzotints complement her poems, prose pieces, translations from Old English and, in her latest book, from medieval Welsh. These are set and printed, letterpress, by her on handmade paper in bindings or in bookform boxes which she designs. Each book is a total concept: choice of paper, a suitable typeface, the unity of text and image, a sympathetic and enhancing binding. She has produced 17 books and the edition size is limited to about 40.

"The particular strength of Shirley Jones's work lies in the successful synthesis of two great traditions, that of the illustrative flair of the French livre d'artiste, and that of the typographical and textual elegance of the English private presses." (1993: Gwyn Walters, former Keeper of Rare Books, National Library of Wales)

"All (the books) have in one way or another a stunning strength, mixed often with wit and the emotion of her Welsh background... In range and power no modern work in England compares with these by Shirley Jones." (Colin Franklin, *Private Library*, 1988)

Born and brought up in the Rhondda Valley in South Wales she has lived in or near London for 25 years but will be moving her studio to Wales in 1994. After studying English Literature at University College Cardiff, teaching in London and bringing up 3 children she attended the postgraduate course in print-making at Croydon Art College where she made her first book.

She has lectured extensively in North America to book arts societies, such as Artist Book Works in Chicago, the Centre for the Book Arts in New York and the Alcuin Society in Vancouver and to the art and literature departments in many universities and liberal arts colleges.

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